

## **Weekly Status & Information Report: August 24 - August 28, 2009**

1. **School Starts Monday:** The first day of school for Montgomery County Public Schools is Monday, August 31. Please drive carefully! *(Deputy City Manager)*
  
2. **The New Ave -Where Takoma Meets the World (Ward 2, 3, 6):** September 1st marks the launch of a new economic development website - [www.TheNewAve.com](http://www.TheNewAve.com). The web site, developed by Planning staff with the assistance of local design and website firms, is part of an ongoing, multi-tier campaign to re-brand the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor as "the New Ave," to promote redevelopment opportunities along the corridor, and to celebrate the economic vitality and diversity of Takoma Park's largest commercial area. The website contains useful information for both visitors and developers interested in the Corridor. Businesses are getting into the act with sales staff proudly wearing "The New Ave" T-shirts and buttons on Fridays throughout the month of September- ready to answer questions about the new website and to encourage visitors to learn more about "Where Takoma Meets the World." Large New Ave decals have been posted on buildings along the corridor with others to be installed on the sidewalks before the end of the month. Keep an eye out for ads promoting the new website on buses and at area bus stops. The website and the City's ongoing efforts to revitalize the corridor will be promoted at several events this fall and the developer and official tours that have been so successful in the past will be continued. For more information contact Ilona Blanchard at 301-891-7205 or [ilonab@takomagov.org](mailto:ilonab@takomagov.org). *(Housing and Community Development)*
  
3. **Request for Proposals - Emergency Assistance Programs:** The Housing and Community Development Department has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the City's FY10 Emergency Assistance Program. Organizations with experience in providing emergency financial assistance to households in need are encouraged to contact Moses A. Wilds, Jr. at 301-891-7215 or by email at [MosesW@takomagov.org](mailto:MosesW@takomagov.org) for information. A copy of the

RFP is available online at <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/hcd/RFPemrFY10.pdf> Deadline for submissions is 3:30 p.m., Friday, September 18. *(Housing and Community Development)*

#### **4. Request for Proposals - Tenant Capacity Building**

**Initiative:** The Housing and Community Development Department has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the continuation of the City's successful Tenant Capacity Building Initiative. Qualified firms or individual(s) with experience in providing technical assistance in organizing and maintaining tenant associations and in the purchase of rental facilities by registered tenant associations are encouraged to apply. For more information, please contact Linda Walker at 301-891-7222 or by email at [LindaW@takomagov.org](mailto:LindaW@takomagov.org) A copy of the RFP is available online at <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/hcd/RFPcapbld%20FY10.pdf> Deadline for submissions is 3:30 p.m., Friday, September 18. *(Housing and Community Development)*

#### **5. Community Development Block Grant - Deadline for**

**Submissions - September 2:** The City of Takoma Park is accepting proposals for the use of its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis to community organizations for a wide range of activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and the provision of improved community facilities and services. Approximately \$25,000 is available for programming which primarily benefits individuals or households of low and moderate incomes. An estimated \$100,000 is available for capital projects benefitting low and moderate income neighborhoods. The project could be something that the organization does on its own or in partnership with the City of Takoma Park. Funds would be available in mid to late 2011. Deadline for submissions is 4:00 p.m. this coming Wednesday, September 2nd. For more information, please contact Sara Anne Daines at 301-891-7224 or at [SaraD@takomagov.org](mailto:SaraD@takomagov.org) *(Housing and Community Development)*

**6. Housing Staff Meet with Police Officers:** Code Enforcement and Landlord-Tenant staff met with officers this past week in four roll call sessions to discuss issues of common concern. Property maintenance and landlord-tenant relations codes and regulations were highlighted and reviewed. As both the police and housing departments share oversight of owner-occupied and rental housing in Takoma Park, it is expected that this sharing of information will continue to ensure a customer service process that is both streamlined and effective. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**7. Hampshire Towers Tenants Awarded Damages for Loss of Balcony Use:** In a recent Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) decision, tenants residing at 7333 and 7401 New Hampshire Avenue were awarded \$9,810 in damages for the reduction in tenancy complaint that they had filed with COLTA. The tenants, who were represented by the Hampshire Towers Tenant Association, requested a larger amount of rent reimbursement, but were awarded \$30/month for the loss of balcony use. The balconies were declared unsafe by County inspectors over a year ago and were closed off. Tenants who were represented by the Hampshire Towers Tenant Association are entitled to take a \$30 deduction in the rent until the balconies are put back into use. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**8. Rent Rollback and Reimbursement to Tenants (Ward 5):** The Office on Landlord-Tenant Affairs is responsible for monitoring the Rent Stabilization Law. During an investigation of the rents being charged at a 6-unit rental facility on Eastridge Avenue, staff learned that the tenants were being charged more than the allowable rents for their apartments. Staff assisted four tenants in filing combined Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) complaints. A hearing was held and COLTA awarded the tenants \$28,802 in rent reimbursements. They are entitled to withhold their monthly rents for five to eleven months. For more information or to request that the rents at a particular rental property be surveyed, please contact Jean Kerr at (301) 891-7216 or e-mail at [JeanK@takomagov.org](mailto:JeanK@takomagov.org). *(Housing and Community Development)*

**9. Monthly Landlord Certification Seminar in the News:** The Housing and Community Development Department's efforts to keep local landlords up to date on Takoma Park's housing laws and regulations were covered by the Gazette this past week. The article - "Takoma Park landlords get crash-course in city law" - can be found online at

[http://www.gazette.net/stories/08262009/takonew184830\\_32533.shtml](http://www.gazette.net/stories/08262009/takonew184830_32533.shtml).

A total of 130 local landlords, management agents and prospective landlords attended the seminar in 2008. The 90 minute seminar is offered on a monthly basis by Code Enforcement and Landlord Tenant staff. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**10. Two New Art Exhibits:** Two new exhibits will be featured at the Takoma Park Community Center this month. The oil paintings of Russian-born, Armenian-raised Suren Gevorgyan will be on display in Gallery 3 on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center throughout the month of September. Gevorgyans paintings are influenced by his cultural background, elements of decorative art, and an affinity for the work of Dali, Picasso, Miro and Rothko. An opening reception celebrating the artist and his work will be held on Saturday, September 5 at 2:00 p.m. The second show features the work of eight of the members of the Takoma Artists Guild, a locally based group dedicated to artistic growth. The exhibit, which includes paintings, drawings, water color, collage and photographs, will be located in the Atrium gallery on the Main Level of the Takoma Park Community Center and can be viewed from September 2-28. An opening reception will be held on Friday, September 4 at 6:00 p.m. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**11. Welcome to Takoma Park!:** The Recreation Department welcomes Will Hanner, Recreation Coordinator, on Tuesday, September 1. Will comes to the City of Takoma Park from Kent County Parks and Recreation where he worked as a Camp Supervisor. Not only does Will have experience in Parks and Recreation but he also holds a Masters degree for Sports Administration (4.0 GPA). Will has expressed a love for working with youth and young adults. For these reasons, the Recreation Department is excited to have Will on the team. He will be

overseeing front desk operations at the community center in the evenings and providing sports programs after school. *(Recreation)*

12. **A Meeting of the Minds:** John Webster, the Recreation Supervisor at the Takoma Park Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue, met with Frank Simpson, Athletic Director at Don Bosco School, to discuss the use of the Takoma Park Recreation Center. Mr. Simpson would like to utilize the gymnasium for the purpose of practice for the girls and boys basketball teams. We are also exploring options to collaborate on beautification projects for the facility. *(Recreation)*

13. **Double Dutch:** A new Double Dutch program will begin on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at Takoma Park Recreation Center. This activity will be implemented as a drop-in program that will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. *(Recreation)*

14. **The Additions:** Morning and Afternoon Addition will be welcoming back students to a new school year. Lots of fun activities are planned: monthly themes, special guests, clubs, swimming and much more. The program runs from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. for Morning Addition and 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. for Afternoon Addition. The Recreation Department had a table set up for the Piney Branch Elementary School Open House Friday, August 28, 2009, to meet the parents and children and answer any questions they may have about Morning and Afternoon Addition or other programs offered by Takoma Park Recreation Department. For more information, please call Carey Antoszewski 301-891-7233. *(Recreation)*

15. **Fusion Science Theater:** On August 19, members of the Fusion Science Theater presented a free program about science for children ages 4 to 10 and their families. Funded through the National Science Foundation and the American Chemical Society, the group is based in Wisconsin. They performed at the Takoma Park and Martin Luther King libraries while attending a conference in Washington, D.C. About 40 children and parents attended the Library program. *(Library)*

16. **The Puppet Show:** Service students from Montgomery College presented an original puppet show with music at both sessions of the Librarys Tuesday morning Circle Time on August 25. Coordinated with assistance from Americorps Vista volunteers, the production was a big hit with the Library audience, and we hope to do further collaborations with them in the future. *(Library)*

17. **Looking for Books:** The Library is accepting books of general interest in good condition for the Friends used book sale, to be held November 7 on the Library lawn. There are opportunities for adult and student volunteers to help at the sale. Call Ellen Robbins at the Library for more information at 301-891-7258. *(Library)*

18. **Book Discussions:** The Friends Reading Group is gearing up for discussions of two books - John Updikes Rabbit Run on October 8, and a series of discussions of George Eliots Middlemarch beginning October 22. The Library has the books for checkout - courtesy of the Friends. All are invited. *(Library)*

19. **Graphic Novels Training Day:** On August 20, Karen MacPherson and Dave Burbank spoke to 15 media specialists as part of an annual training day for Montgomery County Public Schools. They did break book talks about some new and favorite graphic novels, described the Librarys monthly Comics Jam program - designed to engage both eager and reluctant readers in a book club for graphic novel fans, and discussed how to classify and shelve graphic novels. They also handed out copies of the Librarys graphic novel booklist. *(Library)*

20. **Summer Quest Party:** Join us on Monday evening, September 14, for the annual Summer Quest party, celebrating the end of our summer reading adventure for kids. This years reading program drew nearly 200 participants. Please pre-register at [www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html](http://www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html) or by calling 301-891-7259. *(Library)*

21. **College Bound:** The Library's 2009 College Bound Speakers Series will be held Tuesdays in October. Call the Library for information at 301-891-7259. Registration is required. *(Library)*

22. **Ride On Bus Changes Begin Sunday, September 6:** The schedules and routes of Ride On Routes 18 and 25 will be changed, effective Sunday, September 6. Since Route 25 will become a rush-hour only service, there will be no Route 25 buses on Sunday, September 6 or Monday, September 7 (Labor Day buses will operate on a Sunday schedule). Detailed information will be in the next Takoma Park Newsletter and the new schedules and route maps are available at [www.rideonbus.com](http://www.rideonbus.com). *(Deputy City Manager)*

23. **The Newsletter:** The September Newsletter has now been published and will be delivered to all households in the City starting this weekend. Residents who do not receive the newsletter by September 5 are invited to send an email to [LonniM@takomagov.org](mailto:LonniM@takomagov.org) or to call 301-891-7118. The Newsletter is also available online at this link: <http://takomaparkmd.gov/news/newsletter/2009/SEP2009.pdf>. *(Communications)*

24. **Officers in Meetings:**

- On August 27, Chief Ricucci and various members of the police department and City staff attended the promotional ceremony of Corporals Paula Gaskin and Thomas Black.
  - On August 28, Chief Ricucci and various members of the police department attended in-service training for the crossing guards.
- (Police)*

25. **Officers in Training:**

- On August 24 to 28, D/Pfc. Hoetzel and Ms. Kyleen Luy attended training entitled Crime Scene Processing at the Montgomery County Division of the Maryland Park Police in Silver Spring.
- On August 24 to 26, D/Sgt. Smith, D/Pfc. Villegas and D/Pfc. Fields attended training entitled "Interview and Interrogation" in Fort Indian Town Gap, Pennsylvania.

- On August 27, D/Pfc. Fields attended "LinX Training" at the Fairfax County, Virginia, Police Department.
  - On August 26 to 27, D/Pfc. Barber and Det. Cannatella attended training entitled "Investigating Prostitution" at the Montgomery County Police Academy.
- (Police)*

**26. Traffic Enforcement:** Officers conducted at least 107 traffic stops, which resulted in citations, six vehicle impounds, three Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) arrests from traffic, three Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrests and one other arrest from traffic.

***During August 20-26, 2009, the following details were completed:***

August 20, 2009

- Philadelphia Avenue & Holly Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 2-hour detail and issued six State citations.

August 21, 2009

- Elm Avenue & Lincoln Avenue (traffic circle enforcement) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued no citations or warnings.
- Ethan Allen Avenue & Jackson Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued no citations or warnings.

August 24, 2009

- 1100 block of University Blvd. (speeding) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued one State citations for speed and one Safety Equipment Repair Order (SERO).

August 25, 2009

- Maple Avenue & Sherman Avenue (various violations) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued no citations or warnings.
- Kentland Avenue & East West Highway (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued one State citation.



- 7100 block of New Hampshire Avenue (various violations) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued two State citations and one Safety Equipment Repair Order (SERO).
- Philadelphia Avenue & Holly Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued four State citations.
- Philadelphia Avenue & Holly Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued one State citation.
- Fenton Street & Takoma Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued one warning.
- Flower Avenue & Houston Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 2-hour detail and issued 11 warnings.
- Flower Avenue & Houston Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued one State citation.

August 26, 2009

- Maple Avenue & Sherman Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued no citations or warnings.
- Jackson Avenue & Flower Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued three State citations.

*(Police)*